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(71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: **KIM, Andrew, C.** [US/US]; 30213 Del Rey
Road, Temecula, CA 92591 (US).

(74) Agent: **COGAN, Robert, P.**; Nath & Associates PLLC,
1030 15th Street N.W., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20005-
1503 (US).

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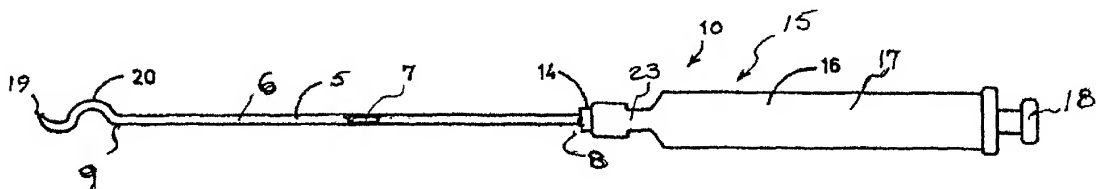
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ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: HYDRODYNAMIC SUTURE PASSER



(57) Abstract: A hydrodynamic suturing instrument (10), comprising an elongated cannulated suturing needle (6) having a distal end configured to carry a suture (24) through tissue and a proximal end adapted to connect to a syringe barrel (17) and a lumen extending from said proximal end to an opening at the distal end for having a size for the passage of a suture, and the opening at the distal end configured to receive a suture extending from the lumen along an outer surface of the needle wherein a sharp point extends forward of the suture. A companion instrument (38) includes forceps having a distal end with jaws (42, 48) and a proximal end with a lumen extending from the proximal end to the distal end for passage of the needle, and the jaws having an opening enabling passage of the needle through tissue grasped in the jaws.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/21586

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/04

US CL : 606/144, 146, 222, 224

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/144, 146, 222, 224

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EAST: suturing needle, syringe, plunger

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3,840,017 A (VIOLANTE) 08 October 1974 (08.10.1974), column 3, lines 17-39.	33-37
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Y		39-40
Y	US 5,562,683 A (CHAN) 08 October 1996 (08.10.1996), coulumn 19, lines 1-11.	39-40
A	US 4,224,947 A (FUKUDA) 30 September 1980 (30.09.1980), see Abstract of the Disclosure	1-40

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Gary Jackson Telephone No. (703) 308-0858